Season 2000-01 was the highest in the history of Andhra Pradesh. During the current year, upto 24.11.2001,1.35 lakh MT of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured. FCI has also given guarantee for 15 lakh MTs of additional storage space under the 7 years guarantee scheme.

Wheat import scams

1246. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that investigations into the alleged wheat import scams of 1997-98 when all Government godown were full, have been completed;

(b) if so, the outsome thereof; and

(c) the action taken and being taken against those found involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) After conclusion of the preliminary enquiry No. PE-14(A)/98-DLI into the matter relating to import of 15 lakh MTs of wheat from the Australian Wheat Board contracted in 1997-98, CB1 has registered a regular case no. RC 62 (a)/ 2001-DLI on 11.09.2001.

Exemption of FCI from statutory levies

1247. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Committee, which formulation a long term foodgrains policy has recommended exemption of Food Corportion of India from paying statutory levies to the State Government;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have examined the interim report submitted by Prof. Abhijit Sen on the subject;

(d) if so, the main recommendations made in the report; and

(e) by when a long term foodgrains policy is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation is under examination of Government.